black news digest

NEWS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information
Publications and Reports
Washington, D.C.
20210

Week of April 29, 1974

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The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

Region I ..... Paul F. Neal, Room E-308, JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, Mass. 02203, 617-223-6767
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Region II ..... Edward I. Weintraub, Room 3510, 1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036, 212-971-5477
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Region III ..... John P. Hurd, 14280 Gateway Bldg., 3535 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104, 215-597-1139
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Region IV ..... William I. Allgood, Room 317, 1371 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, 404-526-5495
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky

Region V ..... John D. Mellott, 12th Floor, 300 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60606, 312-353-6976
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Region VI ..... Les Gaddie, Federal Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse, Room 7C42, 1100 Commerce St., Dallas, Tex. 75202, 214-749-2308
Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Region VII ..... Neal A. Johnson, Federal Office Bldg., Room 1904, 911 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106, 816-374-5481
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Region VIII ..... Ernest E. Sanchez, Room 16408, Federal Bldg., 1961 Stout St., Denver, Co. 80202, 303-837-4234
Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Region IX ..... Tor Torland, Room 10007, Federal Bldg., 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94102, 415-556-3423
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Region X ..... Ernest Hood, Arcade Plaza, Room 2034, 1321 Second Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98101, 296-442-7620
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Soc. Sci.

6 BLACK LABOR DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES
CELEBRATE 'LATE' GRADUATION DAY

WASHINGTON -- Graduation day came a good deal late for six employees of the U.S. Department of Labor.

For one, it has been 30 years since she left high school. For another, 17 years and for still another it has been 10 years since she dropped out of high school.

Through classes at the Labor Department's Individual Learning Center, the six received their GED high school equivalency certificates. All plan to continue their education and aspire to better jobs.

The graduates are: Ann C. Accoo, a secretary in personnel management services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASA), who completed ninth grade 10 years ago and would like to move into the professional field.

Felice L. Gant, a statistical clerk in the Office of Financial Management Information Systems, Manpower Administration, who completed ninth grade six years ago. She would like to enter the data processing field.

Audrey C. Greene, statistical assistant, Office of Survey Management, Bureau of Labor Statistics. She completed 11th grade 30 years ago and plans to continue training in economics.

Gloria Jackson, secretary, Office of Price, Bureau of Labor Statistics who completed 10th grade 17 years ago and plans to enter the professional field.

Frances L. Jones, clerk in the Manpower Administration's Division of Labor Market Information, who completed 9th grade five years ago. She plans to take training to enter the field of accounting.

(MORE)

Elaine M. Malloy, a statistical assistant in the Manpower Administration's Office of Administration and Management, who completed 11th grade 14 years ago. She plans to attend college and pursue a career in social work.

# # #

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF BLACK VETERANS
RISES DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1974

WASHINGTON -- The unemployment rate among black veterans in the first quarter of 1974 rose to 11.8 percent, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced.

Based on data not seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate for black veterans at 11.8 percent was little different from the 10.9 percent rate for black nonveterans in the same age group of 20 to 34 years of age.

But it was double the rate for white veterans of the same ages--5.5 percent.

In the first quarter of 1974 the unemployement rates for both black and white veterans, 20 to 34 years, were back up to year-ago levels, losing the decided over-the-year improvements registered in the fourth quarter of 1973.

Overall, the employment of Vietnam-era veterans, 20 to 34 years, continued to rise in the first quarter of 1974, but the number employed and the unemployment rate also rose.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, veterans' employment increased by 133,000 over the quarter to 5.4 million, but, in line with the pattern for all workers, the gain was not enough to absorb the increase in their labor force.

Unemployment rose by about 60,000 to 290,000 and the unemployment rate moved up from 4.2 to 5.1 percent, about the same level as that for the first three quarters of 1973.

Virtually all of the jobless increase occurred among veterans under age 30. The average unemployment rate for the younger (20-24), more recently discharged veterans rose to 9.9 percent from 7.7 percent in

(MORE)

the fourth quarter of 1973, but was essentially the same as a year earlier.

The substantially lower rate 3.9 percent for veterans 25 to 29, percent, also increased over the quarter and was about the same as a year ago. At 2.9 percent, the rate for veterans 30 to 34 has shown only minor fluctuations for the past 2 years.

With the slowing of military demobilization during the last 2 years and the aging of veterans discharged earlier, a growing majority of Vietnam-era veterans are in the older age groups. By the first quarter of 1974, almost as many veterans in the civilian labor force were in ages 30-34 (1.2 million) as in ages 20-24 (1.3 million). As the number of older veterans continues to increase, their lower jobless rate will have a greater affect on the overall unemployment rate for veterans.

Compared with the unemployment rates for nonveterans of the same ages, that for the youngest (20-24) veterans continued at a higher level, while those for older veterans remained at approximately the same level.

Other highlights for the first quarter of 1974 include the following (based on data that are not seasonally adjusted):

Jobless rates for veterans 20-34 years old increased over the previous quarter in each of the four regions, but remained lowest for those veterans residing in the Southern and North Central States (4.6 and 6.2 percent) and highest for those living in the Northeastern and Western States (7.3 and 7.4 percent). The same situation prevailed for nonveterans.

For both veterans and nonveterans, the proportion of the unemployed looking for work for 15 weeks or more declined over the year.

(MORE)

SCHUBERT ASKS EQUAL TREATEMENT
OF ALL JOBLESS WORKERS

PHILADELPHIA -- Under Secretary of Labor Richard F. Schubert urged equal treatment of all unemployed workers and criticized plans to extend benefits only for those whose joblessness is caused by energy shortages.

In an address at a joint meeting of labor law sections of the Federal and Philadelphia bar associations in this city, Schubert declared:

"A man or woman who becomes unemployed is just as unemployed whether the reason be a shortage of oil or a shortage of customers."

Pointing out that extended unemployment compensation for the energy-related jobless was included in an Energy Bill vetoed by President Nixon, Schubert said the provision would have been "an administrative nightmare."

An energy-related layoff has its effect on suppliers of a manufacturer and on those who provide services in the community where the layoff occurs, as well as on the manufacturer's own employees, Schubert said.

He added that "there's no logical or fair way to draw a line and say: 'This is where the effect stops. On this side of the line the layoffs are energy-related; on that side they are not.'"

Schubert emphasized that the Administration's proposed Job Security Assistance Act would provide extended benefits to workers in areas of high unemployment, regardless of whether their joblessness was attributed to energy shortages or not.

In what he called a review of some other "basic developments" in which the Labor Department is involved, Schubert pointed out that the Occupational Safety and Health Act has been in effect three years on April 28. During that time, he said, more than 100 bills to amend the Act have been introduced in Congress, many to weaken it and several to repeal it, and all have failed. (MORE)

In terms of reasons for their unemployment, the proportion of veterans reporting job loss rose substantially over the year, especially for those reporting layoff.

For veterans and nonveterans who were not in the labor force, the most important reason given for neither working nor seeking work continued to be attendance in school.

# # #

Schubert applauded President Nixon's action in signing the Fair Labor Standards Act amendents of 1974, which raise the federal minimum wage in stages to $2.30 an hour by 1976 and extend coverage of the Act to 7.4 million more workers.

The Labor Department, he said, is in the process of issuing detailed regulations governing enforcement of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires any federal contract over $2,500 to have an affirmative actiom provision for employment of the handicapped.

Schubert pointed out that the pension reform bills now before a conference committee in Congress involved several "trade-offs," including compromises on vesting and funding requirements and termination insurance. However, he reminded the lawyers' group that nothing in law now, and nothing in the new legislation, requires employers to offer pension plans.

# # #

EMPLOYMENT DROP FROM ENERGY CRISIS
OFFSET BY JOB GROWTH IN OTHER INDUSTRIES

NEW YORK -- Recent employment declines -- concentrated in industries heavily dependent on fuel--have been offset by continued job growth in other industries, Commissioner of Labor Statistics Julius Shiskin said.

Noting that today's unemployment problem stems largely from energy shortages, Shiskin said that "the end of the oil embargo has set in motion forces which will reverse the decline in employment in the energy-critical industries."

Speaking before the 16th Annual Forecasting Conference of the New York Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Shiskin said a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics study of 172 private nonfarm industries showed that employed dropped 0.3 percent in "energy-critical" industries compared with a growth of 0.4 percent in other industries from November 1973 through March 1974.

"Energy-critical" industries were defined as those likely to experience negative effects of energy shortages. They comprise 44 of the 172 industries studied, and represent 35 percent of private nonfarm employment.

During the four months covered in the study, employment dropped by some 150,000 to 225,000 workers in the critical industries directly affected by petroleun shortages, particularly gasoline service stations and airlines, Shiskin said.

Employment dropped by 330,000 in industries indirectly affected by the shortages, such as the automobile industry and hotels and motels.

The economic expansion that began in late 1970 "has been the strongest growth period since World War II," despite public uneasiness over certain supply shortages, unemployment and prices, the federal official said.

Shortages of fuel, paper, cement, metals and other supplies primarily have resulted from a lack of expanded production capacity in many

(More)

industries, rapid growth in foreign and domestic demand since 1971, and the oil embargo, the commissioner said.

"But is must be remembered," he pointed out, "that shortages are a phenomenon of booms, not recessions."

Most unemployment which is not related to energy shortages is concentrated largely among women and teenagers, especially black youth. Unemployment rates among other groups of workers compare favorably with those of other postwar expansion periods, Shiskin said.

Although inflation has been aggravated by growth in foreign and domestic demand, poor grain harvests, the oil embargo and the dollar devaluation, Shiskin said that further price rises within the next few months are expected to diminish later this year.

"Experience should teach us that predictions of disaster such as last fall's gloomy prophecies about the consequences of the oil embargo are not always well founded," he added. "Still, we must be on guard for unexpected reversals of economic trends and be prepared to cope with them."

"Experience also teaches us that we often do not foresee major causes of disasters either in war or peace. Future shock has become a common experience. Most of us did not foresee the extent of the 1973 inflation, and we must be on the alert to detect promptly major developments that may adversely affect the economy over the next year."

# # #

NEW YORK AWARDED $7.9 MILLION FOR JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH

WASHINGTON -- New York received a grant from the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to further implement its own job safety and health program.

The $7.9 million was awarded to the New York Department of Labor to cover 50 percent of the state's administration of its occupational safety and health program.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 encourages states to assume operation of their own programs if they are at least as effective as the federal occupational safety and health program.

The act also authorizes the Secretary of Labor to fund up to 50 percent of a state's cost of an approved state plan for implementing and enforcing a job safety and health program.

# # #

Week of April 29, 1974

WOMEN NEED OWN APPRENTICESHIP
OUTREACH PROGRAM, STUDY SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Women should have their own apprenticeship outreach program similar to the one for minority youths in the construction trades.

This is the recommendation of researchers who conducted a three-year project on getting more women into apprenticeship in Wisconsin.

The project, conducted for the U.S. Department of Labor's Manpower Administration, focused on:

-- how to increase the number of women apprentices in the skilled trades, and

-- what to do about practices that discriminate against women in apprenticeship.

The main recommendation of the research group was establishment of a national outreach program for potential women apprentices to give them 10 weeks of tutoring to help them pass apprenticeship entrance examinations in the various trades. About 120 such programs are being operated throughout the country aimed at reaching minority group youths.

Other recommendations by the researchers, the Wisconsin Division of Apprenticeship and Training and the University of Wisconsin Extension in collaboration with the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, are:

-- enforcement of equal employment opportunity laws;

-- removal of sex designations in the Labor Department's Dictionary of Occupational Titles;

-- opening preapprenticeship courses to high school girls; and

-- building affirmative attitudes in women applicants and exclude sex discrimination in labor contracts.

(MORE)

Activities of the demonstration project resulted in a significant expansion in the number of women in apprenticeable occupations in Wisconsin.

In 1970, there were 393 women apprentices in 10 occupations (324 as cosmetologists). In 1973, there were 382 women apprentices in 50 occupations (183 as cosmetologists).

The research project, conducted with $105,000 in Manpower Administration funds, was called "Women in Apprenticeship, Why Not?"

It set out to "isolate, analyze, and minimize barriers to the participation of women in the skilled trades."

A survey by the project confirmed employers' ignorance of equal opportunity laws and their continuing acquiescence to unfounded prejudices against women in skilled trades.

The survey also found women's dropout rate half that for men and a high degree of employer satisfaction with women apprentices.

The 250-page report may be obtained from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Va. 22151, at $6 per copy. The accession number is PB227727.

# # #

INMATES, EX-OFFENDERS IN OKLAHOMA
TO RECEIVE MANPOWER SERVICES

DALLAS -- Between 1,000 and 1,800 inmates and ex-offenders in the Oklahoma prison system will get manpower services, including counseling, testing and placement, under a new program.

Assistant Regional Director for Manpower R.L. Coffman of the U.S. Labor Department said the Department is investing $320,500 to finance about 20 staff positions for the program, under a one-year contract with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Employment counselors assigned to prisons and local employment service offices will work with inmates about to be released and ex-offenders who already have been released. They will also assist in developing jobs and refer individuals to training.

Objective of the program is to prepare parolees during pre-release and post-release periods for constructive participation in society.

Prisons included in the program are: Granite, McLoud Honor Farm, Stringer, Hodgens, Lexington, McAlester, and the proposed women's prison in Oklahoma City.

The program was recommended following riots at McAlester Prison in July 1973. The task force includes representatives of the following U.S. Government agencies: Evironmental Protection Agency, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Office of Economic Opportunity, and Departments of Transportation, Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Agriculture, and Health, Education, and Welfare.

# # #

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--MARCH 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index rose 1.1 percent in March to 143.1 (1967=100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Higher prices for gasoline and food each accounted for about one-fourth of the rise in the index.

The remainder of the increase was due to higher prices for many other consumer goods and services, notably apparel, gas, electricity, postal charges, and physicians' fees. The March CPI was 10.2 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the CPI rose 1.1 percent in March, folllowing increases of 1.0 percent in January and 1.3 percent in February.

The increase in the food index of 0.8 percent in March was considerably less than in the preceding two months. The increase in the index for nonfood commodities was unusually large for the third consecutive month. The services index rose 0.8 percent, following increases of 0.7 percent in the preceding two months.

In the calendar quarter ended in March, the CPI rose at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 14.5 percent. This compares with a rate of 9.0 percent in the last quarter of 1973.

The acceleration in the first quarter was due to large increases for a variety of consumer goods, including gasoline, food, apparel, and household durables. Prices of consumer services rose at about the same rate as in the fourth quarter.

(MORE)

The index for food purchased in grocery stores increased 1.0 percent, substantially more than is usual for March, but less than the increases in February and in January. Fresh vegetable prices rose. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables, cereal and bakery products, and dairy products continued to rise, although not so fast as in late 1973. Increases in prices of sugar and sugar-based items were larger than in recent months.

Beef prices, on the other hand, declined in March following a sharp rise in February. Prices also declined for pork, poultry, eggs, and fresh fruits; prices of most of these items usually rise in March.

The index for food away from home-restaurant meals and snacks--rose 0.7 percent, about the same as in recent months.

The index for nonfood commodities, usually unchanged in March, rose 1.5 percent. The gasoline and motor oil index rose 7.0 percent to a level 39.3 percent above March of last year. The index for fuel oil and coal declined slightly in March, but it was still 57.7 percent above March 1973.

Price increases for apparel commodities were larger than usual for March. Prices continued to increase for other nonfood commodities such as textile housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, newspapers, houses, household durables, and auto parts. New car prices increased instead of declining as they usually do in March. Used car prices continued to decline.

The services index increased 0.8 percent. In the household services category, postal charges rose almost 20 percent, and charges for gas, electricity, home maintenance and repair services, laundry work, and washing machine repairs increased.

(MORE)

The rise in charges for medical care services was led by a 1.7 percent advance in physicians' fees. Among transportation services, there was a large increase in intercity bus fares. Charges for personal care services and apparel services continued to increase.

# # #

REAL EARNINGS IN MARCH 1974

WASHINGTON -- Real gross average weekly earnings decreased 0.8 percent from February to March, after allowance for the usual seasonal change, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

This decline was the result of a 1.1 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index and a 0.3 percent drop in average weekly hours which more than overcame a 0.5 percent rise in average hourly earnings.

Real earnings figures cover full-time and part-time workers on production or nonsupervisory jobs in the private nonfarm sector of the American economy.

Real earnings are calculated by adjusting earnings in current dollars for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Over the year, real average weekly earnings were down 4.1 percent. A rise of 6.6 percent in average hourly earnings was more than offset by a 10.2 percent increase in consumer prices and a 0.8 percent decrease in average weekly hours.

Before adjustment for the increase in the Consumer Price Index and for seasonal change, average weekly earnings were $148.23 in March, compared with $140.22 a year earlier.

Real spendable earnings (real weekly pay after deduction of Social Security and Federal income taxes) for a worker who was earning the average weekly pay and was taxed at rates applicable to a married worker with three dependents fell 0.9 percent from February, seasonally adjusted, primarily because of the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

(MORE)

Over the year, real spendable earnings were down 4.7 percent owing to a 4.1 percent decline in real weekly earnings and a 0.7 percent increase in the effect of taxes. This was the largest percent decline over the year since the monthly real spendable earnings series began in 1964. The decrease in March marked the 12th consecutive month in which real spendable earnings were below their year earlier levels.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power was 106.9 in March, seasonally adjusted, 0.6 percent lower than in Febrary and 3.1 percent below a year ago. The index excludes the effects of overtime in manufacturing and of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

# # #

RETAIL GASOLINE PRICES--MARCH 1974

WASHINGTON -- Average prices of regular and premium gasoline, collected as part of the Consumer Price Index, rose 7.4 percent from February to March, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

In March the U.S. average price for regular grade gasoline rose 7.5 percent to 52.8 cents per gallon. Increases ranged from 3.8 percent in Kansas City to 11.7 percent in Philadelphia.

The average price for premium gasoline rose 7.1 percent to 56.4 cents per gallon; increases ranged from 3.9 percent in Kansas City to 11.1 percent in Milwaukee.

In the 5-month period since October--when the Bureau started to publish average gasoline prices--prices of regular gasoline rose 31.1 percent and premium gasoline rose 28.3 percent.

Percent increases in prices for both regular and premium gasoline during this period have been smaller in Honolulu than in any of the other 23 metropolitan areas for which individual gasoline prices are published.

However, average prices in Honolulu for both regular (56.9 cents) and premium gasoline (60.3 cents) in March were still higher than in any of the other 23 metropolitan areas.

Correspondingly, the percent change in the prices of both regular and premium gasoline have been the largest in Dallas which, next to Houston, had the lowest average prices in March for both grades of gasoline.

# # #

World of Work

New Law Allows Student Wage

By PETER J. BRENNAN
Secretary of Labor

QUESTION: I hear that under the new minimum wage law employers are not required to pay full-time students the same hourly salaries as other employees. Is this true?

ANSWER: Under new provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, any retail, service or agricultural employer may employ up to four full-time students at a sub-minimum wage by notifying the Secretary of Labor. A special certificate issued by the Secretary of Labor is no longer required unless an employer wants to hire more than four full-time students at a wage rate not less than 85 percent of the applicable minimum wage. The students may be employed on a part-time basis or full time during a vacation or holiday. In cases where an employer wants to hire more than four students, pre-certification remains necessary. The new amendment enables institutions of higher education to employ their students at a sub-minimum wage in accordance with safeguards to be developed by the Secretary of Labor. Also, the Secretary of Labor may waive the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the law for students employed by their elementary or secondary schools where their employment is a principle part of the regular educational program provided by the school. The bill also allows the Department of Labor to establish limited pilot projects to determine the effects of a sub-minimum wage rate on out-of-school youths.

* * * *

QUESTION: Under occupational safety and health regulations is my employer required to provide training for me and other employees?

ANSWER: Yes. Several OSHA regulations require that an employer show the company has provided training for the tasks employees are required to perform. For example, a person working as a chain saw operator, crane and derrick driver or power press operator must be made fully aware of any hazards involved in the job and ways to avoid these hazards.

* * * *

Editor's note: If you have a question regarding job training and placement, labor-management relations, job health and safety, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, employment and unemployment, prices and earnings and other matters involving the U.S. Department of Labor, send it to:

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor
"World of Work"
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Consumer

Crib Safety

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

While I believe in economizing, there are limits. Especially where a life—a baby's life—is concerned.

For a couple expecting the first child, a hand-me-down crib could be a way of reducing the burden of expenses. But economizing on a crib would be a mistake. Each year about 40,000 babies are injured so seriously in crib accidents that a doctor must treat them. As many as 200 die because of accidents involving cribs.

The Federal Government, through the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), is trying to make cribs safer by setting certain requirements. But these requirements apply only to cribs made after Jan. 31, 1974.

This doesn't mean you should junk the crib you borrowed from your sister-in-law or the one that was grandmother's. You can economize with an old crib and still be safe by following these guidelines:

● Check the overall condition of the crib you have. Is anything missing? Be sure that all slats and all bolts and other fasteners are in place. Check with the manufacturer, if possible, for replacement parts.

● If you repaint or refinish the crib, you should use only paints or finishes labeled non-toxic.

● If the mattress does not fit the crib snugly, buy one that does. An infant can suffocate if he can wedge his head between the mattress and the crib. However, if the mattress is in good condition, you can roll large bath towels and place them between the mattress and the crib for a tighter fit.

● Bumper pads are even more important on older cribs. Get one that will fit the crib and run the entire crib, fastening in six places. Many older cribs have far too much space between slats—a baby could slip through slats and fall or get wedged between slats.

More information on crib safety, including the major requirements of crib safety standards, is available in the pamphlet Crib Safety. This free publication is available from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009. With a copy of Crib Safety, you'll get a list of other Federal publications about child care—some with tips for economizing, some with tips for child safety.

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The National Labor Relations Act in 1935 established the national labor policy of protecting the right of workers to organize and elect their representatives for collective bargaining.

* * *

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was formed in 1900, according to a Labor Department publication, "A Brief History of the American Labor Movement."

* * *

The merger American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) on December 5, 1955, brought into one organization unions representing approximately 16 million workers--over 85 percent of the membership claimed by all unions in the United States.

* * *

The Employment Act of 1946 committed the government to take all practicable measures to promote maximum employment production and purchasing power, according to a Labor Department publication, "A Brief History of the American Labor Movement."

* * *